Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 8 and 12 and cancel claims 11, 21 and 22 as shown in the following listing of claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-7.   (cancelled)

8.   (currently amended) A method for providing a gain for a communication signal, the method comprising:

receiving a signal with an echo canceller device;

generating echo performance information comprising at least an echo return loss (ERL) portion and an echo return loss enhancement (ERLE) portion, wherein generating the echo performance information includes utilizing a peak power estimator to provide the peak power for the tail end of a block of samples;

summing the ERL and the ERLE to form a combined loss rate; and

adjusting a gain to be provided to the signal based on the combined loss rate.

9-11.   (cancelled)

12.   (currently amended) The method of Claim 11 8, wherein the step of generating the echo performance information includes utilizing a window power estimator to provide power estimate over a sliding area of a certain number of previous blocks and a certain number of current blocks.

13.   (previously presented) A method of providing a gain for a communication signal, the method comprising:

receiving a signal with an echo canceller device;

generating echo performance information utilizing a near-end detector;

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adjusting a gain to be provided to the signal based on the echo performance information; and

setting the near-end detector to a certain time period if certain conditions are satisfied, said conditions including:

the far-end window power being greater than a set level;

the near-end window power being greater than the peak power of the far end; and

the window power after the echo canceller being within a certain amount of the window power before the echo canceller.

14.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the time period of the near-end detector is set to around 250 msec.

15.   (original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the set level is around –36 dBm, and the certain amount is around 3 dB.

16.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein if any of the conditions are not satisfied, a hangover counter is set to a maximum value if a tonal signal is detected on the egress path, and decremented otherwise if greater than zero.

17.   (previously presented) A method of providing a gain for a communication signal, the method comprising:

receiving a signal with an echo canceller device;

determining a long term echo return loss (ERL) level;

determining a short term ERL estimate;

determining a first long term ERL estimate ERLlt;

determining a second long term ERL estimate ERLc; and

adjusting a gain to be provided to the signal based at least in part on the larger of ERLlt and ERLc.

18.   (original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the first long term ERL estimate is equal to the shorter term ERL estimate filtered through a first order infinite impulse response filter having a certain coefficient.

19.   (previously presented) A method of providing a gain for a communication signal, the method comprising:

receiving a signal with an echo canceller device;

determining a long term echo return loss enhancement (ERLE) level;

determining a short term ERLE estimate;

determining a first long term ERLE estimate ERLElt;

determining a second long term ERLE estimate ERLE'lt; and

adjusting a gain to be provided to the signal based at least in part on the larger of ERLElt and ERLE'lt.

20.   (original) The method of Claim 19, wherein the first long term ERLE estimate is equal to the shorter term ERLE estimate filtered through a first order infinite impulse response filter having a certain coefficient.

21-25. (cancelled)